

## Wide Open For Good

"The Power Of A Whisper", Part 4 of 7  
Pastor Vince DiPaola

"If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail."

(Isaiah 58:10-11, The Message)

### What Happens When We Spend Ourselves On Behalf Of Others?

#### 1) When we do, we \_\_LISTEN WITH WIDE-OPEN EARS\_\_.

"And the word of the LORD came again to Zechariah: 'This is what the LORD<sup>OW</sup> Almighty says: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. In your hearts do not think evil of each other.' 'But they refused to pay attention; stubbornly they turned their backs and stopped up their ears. They made their hearts as hard as flint and would not listen to the law or to the words that the LORD Almighty had sent by his Spirit through the earlier prophets. So the LORD Almighty was very angry.'"

(Zechariah 7:8-12, NIV)

"If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear." (Mark 4:23, NIV)

#### 2) When we do, we \_\_GIVE WITH WIDE-OPEN HANDS\_\_.

"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I."

(Isaiah 56:6-9a, NIV)

"The fool folds his hands and ruins himself. Better one handful with tranquility than two handfuls with toil and chasing after the wind."

(Ecclesiastes 4:5-6, NIV)

#### 3) When we do, we \_\_SERVE WITH WIDE-OPEN HEARTS\_\_.

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?'"

And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'"

(Isaiah 6:8, NIV)

"Who may ascend the hill of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart..."

(Psalm 24:3-4a, NIV)

"This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

(1 John 4:10-11, NIV)

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